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No. 58

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 14, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COHEN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Joseph T. Holcomb, Director of Pilgrimages, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

All powerful and merciful God, we praise You and give You thanks for all Your gracious gifts, most especially the gift of Your infinite love. It is Your gift of love that inspires and drives us to lives of committed service, lives that are lived in truth, in justice and for the good of all people.

May we always avail ourselves to Your love so that we may better serve those we represent in this the United States House of Representatives.

May our deliberations, discussions and actions always reflect the love you have bestowed upon us that we might bring about understanding, tolerance, and harmony in our great Nation and peace for the entire world. We pray this in Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CRIME—VICTIMS—JUSTICE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the suffering of a quiet group of remarkable individuals is often overlooked by our culture. Victims of crime sometimes spend the rest of their lives trying to cope with being someone else's prey.

These people are a cross section of America and include all races, ages, religions, and they come from all economic backgrounds. You see, violent crime plays no favorites and does not discriminate.

We, as neighbors, should be aware of and concerned about these victims. That is why we honor and remember them during this National Crime Victims Rights Week. Since 1981, each year in April, communities throughout these vast great plains have celebrated National Crime Victims Rights Week to promote victims' rights and to recognize victims, as well as those who advocate on their behalf.

We can do victims justice by raising awareness of their plight and demanding that justice prevail in their lives, many of whom spend quiet lives of desperation. They are the forgotten participants in the judicial system, and we will forget them no more.

And that's just the way it is.

NO RESULTS FROM EMPTY PROMISES OF MAJORITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, a little over a year ago, when the majority party was campaigning to take control of this House, they promised a lot of change, and they made a lot of promises about what they were going to do about gas prices and energy costs and everything else in this country.

However, what has that promised change brought us? It has brought us a

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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43 percent increase in gasoline prices. The price of groceries is going up rapidly.

We have seen no results from these empty promises. This is a do-nothing Congress. They accused the Republicans of being a do-nothing Congress.

This is a do-something Congress involved with a do-nothing because what they have done has been detrimental to our country. They have caused the price of gas to go up 43 percent, the price of groceries to go up.

We need a real energy policy, not a lot of empty promises. I call on the majority to let us see some results from those empty promises.

AMERICA IS NOT AS SECURE TODAY

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, America is not as secure today as it was just several weeks ago.

The leadership in the House has not allowed the Protect America Act to come to the floor, and, thus, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act has expired.

We cannot monitor what Osama bin Laden and Afghanistan or Pakistan are talking about or his phone calls to Iran or any other place in this world. FISA only monitors phone calls from one foreign entity to another.

The leadership seems more bent on protecting lawsuits than they are in protecting America. I call upon the leadership to let us vote on the Protect America Act so that we can make America secure again.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 14, 2008, at 12:56 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House, S. 793.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, This letter is to advise you that I will relinquish my seat on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce effective 5:00 p.m. EST, April 9, 2008.

It has been my honor to serve for the past twelve years as a member of the Committee and for the past 2 years as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Environment and Hazardous Materials. I consider it a singular privilege to have worked with Chairman John Dingell, a true lion of the Congress, and on the important work of the Committee.

While I have fully complied with both the letter and spirit of the ethics rules as well as engaged in appropriate recusals, I am concerned that this issue is a distraction from the critical work of the Committee on climate change, energy independence and environmental protection. Unfortunately, it appears that this issue has become fodder for cynical partisan attacks.

I would also like to thank you for all of the support you have given me throughout my career.

Sincerely,

ALBERT R. WYNN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICIAL OBJECTORS FOR PRIVATE CALENDAR FOR 110TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On behalf of the majority and minority leaderships, the Chair announces that the official objectors for the Private Calendar for the 110th Congress are as follows:

For the majority:
Mr. BOUCHER, Virginia
Mr. SCHIFF, California
Mr. GRIJALVA, Arizona
For the minority:
Mr. KING, Iowa
Mr. FORBES, Virginia
Mr. SMITH, Texas

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF COLORADO SHOOTINGS

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 886) expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 886

Whereas on Sunday, December 9, 2007, a man entered the New Life Church property with the intent to cause harm to members and guests of the church;

Whereas the attacker shot 5 bystanders at the New Life Church, killing 2 of them and injuring 3 others;

Whereas the shooting resulted in the tragic loss of Stephanie Works, 18, and Rachel Works, 16, who lost their lives from wounds sustained from shots fired by the attacker;

Whereas the attacker wounded David Works, who was still hospitalized days after the shootings, Judy Purcell, and Larry Bourbonnais;

Whereas Jeanne Assam, a volunteer private security guard, heroically rushed into harm's way and used her own gun to stop the shooter, thereby saving the lives of several other bystanders;

Whereas the quick response of private security, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Springs Police Department, the Colorado Springs Fire Department, the Colorado Springs SWAT Team, Federal authorities, and medical professionals limited the danger to the church and local community;

Whereas this event occurred only hours after another tragic and fatal shooting, which occurred at the Youth With A Mission facility, located in Arvada, Colorado;

Whereas the shooting at Youth With A Mission resulted in the death of Tiffany Johnson, 26, and Philip Crouse, 24;

Whereas the attacker seriously wounded Dan Griebenow and Charlie Blanch; and

Whereas local first responders in the City of Arvada and in Jefferson County, Colorado, responded quickly and professionally, thereby saving wounded individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) offers its heartfelt condolences to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Arvada, Colorado; and

(2) conveys its gratitude to Jeanne Assam, city and county officials, as well as the police, fire, sheriff, Federal authorities, and emergency medical teams whose quick response saved lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Res. 886, as amended, which expresses sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Arvada, Colorado.

House Resolution 886 was introduced by Representative DOUG LAMBORN from the State of Colorado on December 18,